

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029371

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. BRITISH WARSHIPS RETURN TO WATERS OFF ICELAND

THE ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE WORSENER FEBRUARY 5.

AFTER AN ICELANDIC GUNBOAT CUT THE FISHING NET CABLES OF THE BRITISH TRAWLER LOCH ERIDOL, THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ORDERED ITS WARSHIPS AND PLANES TO RETURN TO THE FISHING WATERS OFF ICELAND. THE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD CLAIMED THE TRAWLER HAD IGNORED REQUESTS TO PULL IN ITS NETS WHEN IT WAS VIOLATING ICELANDIC CONSERVATION REGULATIONS.

AP TICKER, LONDON 1870 (CONFIDENTIAL), REYKJAVIK 173,

2/5.

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PAGE 02 STATE 029371

### 2. BENIN'S BELLPGERENCE INCREASES, US ORDERED OUT OF

CHANCERY

WITH ITS PRO-MPLA CAMPAIGN AND RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS FOR AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AT A FEVER PITCH, BENIN HAS DISPLAYED ITS IRRITATION WITH THE US AND TOGO. THE GOVERNMENT OF BENIN:

--ELICITED VEHEMENT DENIALS FROM TOGOHCONCERNING ALLEGED GOT INVOLVEMENT IN PLOTTINGHAGAINST THE KEREKOU REGIME;

--REQUESTED WRITTEN CONFIRMATION--PROBABLY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES--THAT BENIN IS "ON THE LIST OF COUNTRIES REGARDING WHICH THE US INTENDS TO RE-EXAMINE ITS POLICY OF COOPERATION;"

--HAS GIVEN THE USG NOTICE TO EVACUATE ITS CHANCERY AND OTHER NEARBY BUILDINGS BY OCTOBER 26, 1976.

IT APPEARS THE BENIN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ENLARGE THE PERIMETER OF CAMP GUEZO, CONTONOU'S MILITARY BASE, BY TAKING OVER THE BUILDINGS. (CONFIDENTIAL) COTONOU 194, 197, 198; LOME 264, 2/5.

### 3. FIRST FRENCH REACTIONS TO CONCORDE DECISION

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT THE REACTION OF GOVERNMENT AND AVIATION OFFICIALS TO SECRETARY COLEMAN'S DECISION HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE, BUT WITH MANY RESERVATIONS. THE FRENCH:

--ARE DISAPPOINTED THE DECISION DOES NOT REPRESENT UNQUALIFIED APPROVAL;

--MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO EXTEND CONCORDE PRODUCTION AND HOW TO HANDLE COSTS INCURRED IN COMMENCING CARRIER OPERATIONS TOH THE US FOR A PERIOD WHICH MIGHT NOT EXCEED 16 MONTHS;

--WANT TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH US MONITORING  
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PAGE 03 STATE 029371

OF THE SST'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AT JFK AND DULLES;

--FEEL IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO MARKET STILL UNSOLD CONCORDES, SO LONG AS IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE AIRCRAFT CAN FLY TO THE US BEYOND THE 16-MONTH LIMIT.

ON THE POYITIVE SIDE, MANY FEEL THE TIME LIMIT WILL  
ENABLE AIR FRANCE TO DEMONSTRATE THE COMMERCIAL WORTH  
OF THE CONCORDE AND ITS LACK OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRON-  
MENTAL EFFECTS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PARIS 3641,  
2/5.

4. US AID BEGINS TO ARRIVE IN GUATEMALA

THE FIRST OF 16 C-141'S WITH US EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT WAS  
DUE TO LAND LATE FEBRUARY 5 IN GUATEMALA WITH HOURLY  
FLIGHTS EXPECTED THEREAFTER. THE DISASTER AREA SURVEY  
TEAM:

--TENTATIVELY ESTIMATES A DEATH TOLL OF 6,000  
COUNTRYWIDE.

--REPORTS THAT GUATEMALA CITY WATER IS AS YET UN-  
CONTAMINATED BUT THAT PRESSURE IS LOW.

--HAS NO REASON TO DOUBT A GUATEMALAN NATIONAL  
OBSERVATORY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 222 TREMORS SHOOK THE  
AREA ON FEBRUARY 4 AND 5. (UNCLASSIFIED) GUATEMALA  
804, 2/5. KISSINGER

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